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Message Text

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14
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 IO-12 AGR-20 INT-08 SCEM-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

RSR-01 /204 W
---------- 002256
R 200950 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5066
INFO USDOC/ WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA ONE)

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR, DM, CEAO, NI
SUBJ: DAHOMEAN PARTICIPATION IN CEAO

ROME PASS AMBASSADOR ANDERSON

REF: ABIDJAN 2668

1. ON HIS RETURN FROM CEAO MEETING IN ABIDJAN APRIL 17, FORMIN
ALLADAYE MADE AIRPORT STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY DAHOMEY HAD
SHUNNED
MEMBERSHIP IN COMMUNITY WHILE ACCEPTING OBSERVER/ MEMBER ROLE.
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ALLADAYE BEGAN WITH AFFIRMATION OF DAHOMEY' S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. SAID DAHOMEY' S POSITION AT ABIDJAN CEAO MEETING SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS STEP BACKWARD. DAHOMEY HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN CEAO AT SIGNING OF COMMUNITY' S TREATY AT BAMAKO ON 2 JUNE 1972. " TAKE A LOOK AT A MAP OF WEST AFRICA", HE TOLD THE PRESS, " AND YOU WILL SEE THAT DAHOMEY IS BOUNDED ON THE EAST BY A VERY GREAT COUNTRY, NIGERIA, AND ON THE WEST BY TOGO AND GHANA. INGERIA AND GHANA ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE CEAO." ACCORDING TO ALLADAYE, " DAHOMEY HAS ALWAYS HELD THAT IT COULD NOT BECOME A MEMBER OF EXCLUDED NIGERIA. GIVEN FACT THAT A LARGE PART OF DAHOMEY' S CURRENT COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES ARE WITH NIGERIA AND TOGO, DAHOMEY' S RESERVATIONS ARE JUSTIFIED IN THE SENSE THAT IT COULD NOT BECOME PART OF AN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION THAT EXCLUDES ITS CLOSEST NEIGHBORS. THE TREATY SIGNED ON 2 JUNE 1972 WAS NOT WELL THOUGHT OUT. DAHOMEY SHOULD NEVER HAVE SIGNED IT. BECAUSE OF HER TRADE WITH NIGERIA AND TOGOJ DAHOMEY COULD NOT SCRUPULOUSLY RESPECT TERMS
OF TREATY. THEREFORE, IT NOW PREFERS NOT BECOME FULL MEMBER OF CEAO." IN ADDITION, ALLADAYE STATED, " DAHOMEY WAS NOT THE ONLY COUNTRY TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ABOUT CEAO MEMBERSHIP... OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE REQUESTED SAFEGUARDS BE INCLUDED IN TREATY. IN FACT, TWO THESIS HAVE EMERGED ON CEAO-- ONE CALLING FOR COMMUNITY COMPOSED OF FRANCOPHONE AND ANGLOPHONE WEST AFRICAN MEMBERS-- AND THE
SECOND CALLING FOR CEAO COMPOSED ONLY OF FRANCOPHONE MEMBERS. DAHOMEY SUBSCRIBED TO THE FIRST THESIS."

2. ALLADAYE STATED DAHOMEY SEES SOLUTION AFRICA' S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
IN CREATION OF REGIONAL GROUPINGS. HE THEN SUGGESTED PRESIDENT DRORI, PRESIDENT OF THE CEAO, SHOULD CONSIDER CONTACTING IMMEDIATELY ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHO DESIRE MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW ORGANIZATION.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE CLEAREST MRGD PUBLIC STATEMENT CONFIRMING DAHOMEY INTENTION NOT TO BECOME MEMBER OF WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WHICH EXCLUDED NIGERIA. ALTHOUGH, IN PAST, DAHOMEAN AUTHORITIES ALWAYS SUPPORTED NIGERIAN MEMBERSHIP IN CEAO AND HINTED THAT DAHOMEAN MEMBERSHIP IN CEAO WAS CONTINGENT ON NIGERIAN MEMBERSHIP, DAHOMEY HAS NEVER BEFORE CATEGORICALLY STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT JOIN IF NIGERIA WAS NOT INCLUDED. IF THERE ANY DOUBT ALLADAYE' S UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT LINKING DAHOMEY' S ECONOMIC FUTURE
DIRECTLY TO NIGERIA HAS NOW CLEARLY EMERGED AS KEY ELEMENT IN DAHOMEY' S ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICY.

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ABIDJAN
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